

Over 200,000 Acres Accomplished

Recently Completed Projects in Chronological Order

12/20/2000 to 6/30/2001

State	Date	Project Name	Acres	Value of Interests	FLP Payment
Montana	12/20/2000	Thompson/Fisher Phase I	13,320	\$2,293,000	\$1,000,000
This is the first phase in an effort to protect 140,000 acres from development in the Thomson and Fisher River valleys in northwestern Montana.					
California	12/28/2000	Twinning & Oracle Oak Ranches	1,526	\$1,850,000	\$40,000
Threatened by vineyard development, this donated easement will protect valuable oak and mixed conifer woodlands near Ukiah, California.					
Puerto Rico	1/19/2001 & 2/1/2001	3 tracts at Guanica State Forest	277	\$802,000	\$792,000
These 3 tracts were proposed for development, now they help protect 6 endangered species and provide a buffer around the State Forest.					
Rhode Island	2/21/2001	DuVal Trail Corridor	166	\$345,000	\$345,000
This tract of land has been used for a variety of forest uses and has been owned by the same family since the late 1600's.					
Minnesota	3/19/2001	Nerstrand Woods #1	111	\$238,000	\$238,000
Bordering Nerstrand Woods State Park, the property will be planted with trees and act as a buffer to the State Park.					
Utah	3/26/2001	Boyden Farms Phase II	2,668	\$2,335,000	\$1,900,000
Adds to the existing 695 acres of the Phase 1 Forest Legacy protected lands that closed on 7/5/2000.					
Illinois	4/6/2001	Oblate Woods #2	60	\$240,000	\$240,000
Tract borders Oblate Woods #1 and a FY2000 funded tract. Combined, they add nearly 200 acres of nondevelopable land to local protection efforts.					
Utah	5/7/2001	Summit Park	325	\$1,600,000	\$800,000
Full public access and the development of a trail system will occur on this property.					
Utah	5/16/2001	Bar J Ranch Phase II	1,964	\$1,765,000	\$1,200,000
Adds to the existing 2,463 acres of the Phase 1 Forest Legacy protected lands that closed on 12/22/2000.					
Montana	5/30/2001	Thompson/Fisher Phase II	52,935	\$11,999,000	\$3,795,000
The second phase protecting the Thompson and Fisher River Valleys and the winter range of the largest elk herd in northwestern Montana.					
Washington	5/31/2001	Kimball Creek	80	\$1,212,000	\$930,000
The first of three phases protecting this forested area on the I-90 National Scenic Byway from development.					
Utah	6/14/2001	Castle Rock Phase I	2,785	\$1,800,000	\$0
Landowner donation and State funds purchased this easement. The total project will protect over 10,000 acres of land.					
Recently Completed Projects Totals			76,217	\$26,479,000	\$11,280,000

Land Protected to Date

Including donations and State purchases

State	Acres	Value of Interests	FLP Payment
CA	3,275	\$4,850,000	\$40,000
CT	1,261	\$2,271,000	\$390,000
IL	143	\$584,000	\$492,000
ME	31,398	\$7,293,000	\$5,793,000
MD	668	\$775,000	\$0
MA	1,252	\$6,246,000	\$3,430,000
MN	251	\$504,000	\$238,000
MT	66,255	\$14,292,000	\$4,795,000
NH	12,797	\$5,112,000	\$1,804,000
NJ	2,340	\$13,112,000	\$1,662,000
NY	1,555	\$4,673,000	\$2,403,000
NC	560	\$2,288,000	\$1,400,000
PR	1,468	\$1,577,000	\$792,000
RI	598	\$1,265,000	\$1,265,000
SC	571	\$1,428,000	\$975,000
UT	28,862	\$26,565,000	\$6,970,000
VT	50,955	\$8,358,000	\$5,707,000
WA	3,411	\$19,771,000	\$10,219,000
TOTAL	207,620	\$120,964,000	\$48,375,000

Forest Legacy News

• New National Forest Legacy Program Manager

Rick Cooksey started as the National Forest Legacy Program Manager on May 14th. He comes from the Northeastern Area, State & Private Forestry Forest Service Liaison to the Chesapeake Bay Program. Rick can be reached by at 202-205-1469 or rcooksey@fs.fed.us.

• Forest Legacy Update Designer Retires

Doris Bellinger, the Forest Legacy Periodic Update design specialist, retired on February 3, 2001. She plans to garden and travel. Best wishes and thanks for your dedication in designing this document.

• New Forest Legacy Guidelines Revision Status

The Forest Legacy Guidelines revision team met for a final time on May 16th and 17th in Washington, DC. New Forest Legacy Program Guidelines may be released as early as July.

• New Land Trust Alliance Book Available

The Land Trust Alliance has a new handbook titled “Working Forest Conservation Easements,” that addresses forest management on conservation easement lands. To purchase see <http://www.lta.org>.

• House Approves \$60 Million for FLP in FY2002

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, funding the Forest Legacy Program in Fiscal Year 2002 at \$60 million. The Senate Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations subcommittee has recommended a funding level of \$65 million.

• Montana, Big Sky Country, Has Big Land Conservation Effort to Match

The Thompson and Fisher project will provide permanent public access and sustainable forest management to over 140,000 acres of timberlands. The closing on May 30, 2001, transfers development rights on 53,000 acres of Plum Creek lands, adding to the 13,320 acres protected in December. The Trust for Public Land was instrumental in the deal. Funds came from two Federal programs, the State of Montana, and private companies including the landowner, totaling \$11,999,156. ”This project is in the best interest for the fish and wildlife, while assuring public access and timber-based jobs,” said Governor Judy Martz.

Forest Legacy Project Wins National Award

The 2001 Taking Wing Habitat Award Goes to...

On March 17, 2001, the Nicatous Lake Forest Legacy project won the Habitat Taking Wing Award at the 66th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Washington, DC. Taking Wing, a Forest Service program, with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. as a key partner, has a mission to conserve wetland ecosystems for waterfowl and wetland wildlife. Taking Wing presents awards to Forest Service units/employees and partners who enhance wildlife habitat and recognizes outstanding personal and organizational contributions towards the goals of the Taking Wing Program.

The Nicatous Lake project, located in northeastern Maine, was chosen because the Forest Service cooperated with partners to protect critical riparian shoreline and wetlands by providing funding and technical assistance in acquiring a conservation easement on over 20,268 acres. The undeveloped shoreline provides habitat for loons and other waterfowl in perpetuity. This is the first time State & Private Forestry has received a Taking Wing Award. The Habitat Award was presented to representatives of the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area, the Maine Forest Service, the Maine’s Bureau of Parks and Lands, the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, the Forest Society of Maine, Trust for Public Land, and Robbins Lumber Inc., who agreed to restrict their management activities on this property for waterfowl habitat enhancement.



Alan Hutchinson of the Forest Society of Maine (left), Deirdre Raimo from the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area (center), and Kathy DeCoster from Trust for Public Land (2nd from right) accept the Taking Wing Habitat Award on behalf of all involved in the Nicatous Lake Forest Legacy Project from Jim Furnish, Deputy Chief (2nd from left), and James Caplan of the Alaska Region.

Photo by Ted Beauvais

Web-Based Monitoring Technology
For Forest Legacy Tracts

By Casey Giffen

Durham, New Hampshire

An alternative to aerial monitoring of conservation might be a new computer-based technology called web-detection. The Forest Service investigated this with some professional conservation easement monitors.

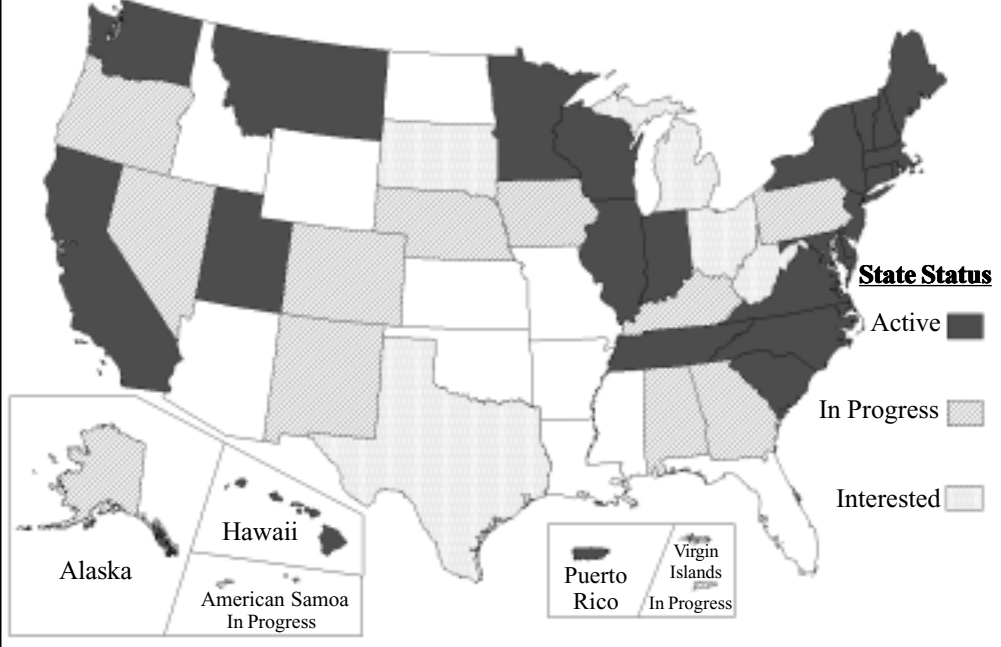
In February 2001, Bill Frament, Casey Giffen, and Neal Bungard of the Forest Service’s Durham Field Office met with Peter Helm and Laura Pfister of The New Hampshire Land Conservation Investment Program (NHLCHIP) to evaluate web-based change detection technology developed by a company called Forest One. The Forest Service wanted to capitalize on Peter’s and Laura’s expertise in monitoring conservation easements to assess Forest One’s application for potential use for monitoring Forest Legacy tracts.

Forest One, located in Evanston, Illinois, and Jackson, Mississippi, calls its change detection technology “F1.Guard.” F1.Guard automates change detection and provides it on the Internet.

F1.Guard is geared to a wide range of customers—from forestland owners, State and Federal agencies, organizations involved with wetland monitoring, forest product companies, and timber buyers, to virtually anyone interested in monitoring land. Forest One acquires Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM) satellite imagery to perform automated change detection. Satellite imagery is retrieved every 16 days from a number of satellites and the images are processed and analyzed by proprietary Forest One software. F1.Guard then searches for changes in the pixels that cover your property, analyzes the changes, and generates reports with recommendations. The actual comparison of data occurs between last year’s imagery at a certain time of year and a satellite image at the same time for the current year. For example, F1.Guard can perform a comparison of last year’s leafoff image (i.e., winter) to this year’s leafoff image of a particular tract of land. The resolution of the imagery is 15 meter and 30, which may affect the monitoring process in terms of how much change you can actually detect.

After a hands-on session with the web-based technology, the evaluation group identified a few functions that, if added, would enhance the value of the technology. In particular, adding an automated button to click off the changed pixels to see what is underneath on the image would allow the user to first evaluate what activities may be taking place on the ground, and then make an educated guess as to why the change occurred before visiting the site. Another suggested enhancement would be the ability to obtain coordinates when you place the cursor over a pixel or set of pixels. If you planned to do an on-the-ground visit, you could obtain the coordinates of the specific set of pixels that show change and navigate to the specific area on the ground using a Global Positioning System (GPS). Existing and recently added features of the service include the ability to download the imagery or print off the imagery from the web. This feature allows you to obtain the satellite imagery and produce hard copy maps for use at information meetings or just as another means to

Forest Legacy Program Activity



visually display the property. Users also have the option of exporting the changed pixels into a coverage to overlay onto satellite imagery.

“This type of software has potential as technologies become more sophisticated and hardware performance improves,” said Laura Pfister. “Improved imagery resolution and geo-referencing capabilities are key elements to enhancing the value of such a tool in the future,” Pfister added.

Forest One’s web-based monitoring technology has some promising features that may appeal to States monitoring Forest Legacy tracts. However, the automated change detection would in no way replace annual site visits, F1.Guard would need to be used in conjunction with appropriate tools to conduct effective monitoring. The effectiveness of this technology has yet to be tested by a Forest Legacy State. The product is continually evolving and is dynamic enough to conform to conservation easement monitoring requirements. Costs associated with acquiring the imagery are not available because modifications would have to be made for conservation easement monitoring. When the costs become available, aerial monitoring costs can serve as a comparison. Aerial survey costs can range from \$.04 to \$.10/acre.

As always, the State is responsible for monitoring all Forest Legacy easements whether acquired by the Federal Government or under a State Grant Option, although the State may delegate the authority to monitor a tract to a nongovernmental entity.

For information on the automated change detection technology, see Forest One’s web site at <http://www.forestone.com>.

This is an evaluation of a type of software. References to commercial products or companies are not meant to be an endorsement of the product or company.

Websites for Forest Legacy related information:

- USDA Forest Service National Forest Legacy Program
- USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area Forest Legacy Program
- USDA Forest Service Southern Region Forest Legacy Program
- Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions

- <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/flp.htm>
- <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/legacy>
- <http://www.r8web.com/spf/coop/legacy/>
- <http://www.usdoj.gov/enrd/land-ack/>

Why Public Involvement Is So Important Throughout
the Forest Legacy Program

By Neal Bungard

Durham, New Hampshire

As more States are becoming involved with the Forest Legacy Program (FLP), it is important throughout the entire process that the public is involved. Not all people support the program wholeheartedly. People may oppose the FLP because they hear erroneous information. Some in favor of logging and forestry practices see the FLP as the first step in having the land “locked up,” eliminating the availability of the timber supply. Others believe that the FLP is just another subsidy that pays the big timber industry to do the job that they are already in business to do—growing trees.

To avoid the appearance of a public agency hiding something, the public is typically informed through traditional measures, such as press releases, public service announcements, and public meetings, if necessary. Ways to notify the public besides the traditional print and local media notifications need to be considered in the new millenium.

An emerging and evolving addition to the traditional methods of reaching the public is the Internet. Many States have utilized the Internet to post information about the Forest Legacy Program. Newer States to the program like South Carolina used the Internet as an additional tool for the public to use to comment on the program. Currently the State of Georgia, which is working on their Assessment of Need (AON), provides a variety of program information on its web site at <http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/management/legacy/>. The site includes contact information for the Georgia Forestry Commission and the State’s Forest Legacy Coordinator, the draft AON, the current National Forest Legacy Program Guidelines, a map of the proposed Forest Legacy Areas, the schedule of public meetings with directions to the meeting sites, and a page where individuals can comment and submit ideas on Georgia’s participation in the FLP.

While taking great care to involve the public may not end opposition to the Forest Legacy Program, State officials can make better decisions after assessing the overall mood of the public. As one State official who is currently working on an AON stated, “Ultimately, it takes a courageous State administration that wants to do what is right despite the publicized distractions of a very vocal minority of dissenters.”



The Forest Legacy Program was established in the 1990 Farm Bill. State and Federal partners implement the program together. Information sharing occurs many ways including this periodic update. If you would like to receive copies, please send information to: Forest Legacy, USDA Forest Service, 271 Mast Road, P.O. Box 640, Durham, NH 03824-0640. Deirdre Raimo, Coordinator



Neal Bungard, Layout & Design

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